

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 07724 020801Z

13

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 L-03 RSR-01 /047 W

----- 117383

R 020450Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7770

UNCLAS HONG KONG 7724

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: ANTI-HIJACKING PASSENGER PRESCREENING

REF: STATE 149612 AND A-5662

1. HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TECHNICALLY CONFORMS WITH THE REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING U.S. AIR CARRIERS AS OUTLINED IN STATE A-5662. HOWEVER, THE LACK OF VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY PROCEDURES BY AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AND THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE HAS CAUSED MUCH CONCERN AMONG THE U.S. AIR CARRIERS. DUE TO THIS CONCERN A LIST OF DISCREPANCIES RELATED TO AIRPORT SECURITY WAS SUBMITTED ON APRIL 7 BY AIRLINE OPERATORS COMMITTEE TO THE HONG KONG POLICE FORCE FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. POLICE ACTION CONCERNING THESE DISCREPANCIES DID NOT RECEIVE MUCH EMPHASIS UNTIL 8 JUNE 1973 WHEN A POLICE SUPERINTENDENT SUSPECTED OF GRAFT, ILLEGALLY LEFT HONG KONG. SINCE THEN ALL ASPECTS OF AIRPORT

SECURITY HAVE RECEIVED INCREASED EMPHASIS BY BOTH THE POLICE AND THE NEWS MEDIA. AS A RESULT AIRPORT SECURITY IS MUCH BETTER NOW AND PASSENGER AND BAGGAGE SCREENING IS BEING CONDUCTED IN A MUCH MORE EFFICIENT MANNER THAN BEFORE. ALTHOUGH NEW METHODS OF PASSAGENDER AND BAGGAGE SCREENING ARE BEING REVIEWED BY HONG KONG POLICE NEITHER POLICE, THE GOVERNMENT, NOR THE AIRPORT AUTHORITIES PERFORM THIS FUNCTION. THE SCREENING IS DONE BY PRIVATE COMPANIES HIRED BY THE INDIVIDUAL AIR CARRIERS AND AS A RESULT THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE SCREENING REGULATIONS IS NOT STANDARD AND THE QUALITY OF SCREENING VARIES FROM CARRIER TO CARRIER.

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PAGE 02 HONG K 07724 020801Z

2. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT AT PRESENT IS GIVING ALL ASPECTS OF
AIR PORT SECURITY INCREASED EMPHASIS AND IT IS ANTICIPATED THEY WILL
COME UP WITH A PROGRAM THAT IS EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE.
DEAN

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